

## Message Text

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ACTION MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 ABF-01  
SAB-02 CTME-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00 /049 W  
-----051368 091822Z /46

R 091348Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6916  
INFO US CUSTOMS WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS PANAMA 3180

MEXICO FOR CUSTOMS ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AODE, PN  
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF CUSTOMS OFFICE IN PANAMA

1. EARLY IN 1976 A REPRESENTATIVE FROM U.S. CUSTOMS EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CUSTOMS ATTACHE OFFICE IN PANAMA. WHILE RECOGNIZING MERIT OF REQUEST, AMBASSADOR DEFERRED DECISION FOR REASONS RELATED TO NEGOTIATIONS OF PANAMA CANAL TREATIES AND OTHER PROBLEMS OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT NATURE. IN DECEMBER 1977, AFTER SIGNATURE OF NEW TREATIES, DEPUTY ASST COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS DENNIS RAISED THE PROPOSAL WITH THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CANAL ZONE CUSTOMS IT WOULD BE IN THE U.S. INTEREST AND ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE EMBASSY TO HAVE A CUSTOMS PRESENCE IN PANAMA. A TWO AGENT OFFICE WAS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE WITH ONE AGENT SPECIALIZING IN CONTRABAND MATTERS AND THE OTHER PROVIDING SUPPORT TO MISSION ON IMPORT REGULATION, FRAUD, DUMPING AND GSP INVESTIGATIONS. THE OFFICE WOULD REQUIRE SECRETARIAL SUPPORT.

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2. DURING THE RECENT FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION OF THE EMBASSY, THE PROPOSAL WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE SENIOR INSPECTOR. THE INSPECTORS ENDORSED THE EMBASSY'S POSITION AND HAVE SO STATED IN THEIR INSPECTION REPORT.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO FAVORABLY CONSIDERED THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING A CUSTOMS OFFICE IN PANAMA IN

ITS RECENT GORM SUBMISSION (PANAMA 3010).

4. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SECRETARY OF  
TREASURY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO APPROVE CUSTOM'S REQUEST  
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE U.S. CITIZEN MODE POSITIONS  
FOR PANAMA. THIS MESSAGE IS TO CONFIRM TO ALL INTERESTED  
OFFICES THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY  
THE AMBASSADOR, WHO CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL  
MADE BY U.S. CUSTOMS. JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PANAMA03180  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014